



### Select Developmental Characteristics: (approximately age 9)

A typical 9-year-old child...

#### Boy

- has same-sex friendships, and may have a few best friends and casual acquaintances and these relationships tend to be based on mutual interests, such as membership in a club or sports team.
- at this age is seldom interested in girls, except to tease them or scare them; some will have a “girlfriend” but tend to be very casual about it.

#### Girl

- has same-sex friendships, and may be more possessive of their friends, enjoy shared secrets with friends, and care deeply about best friends.
- is not consumed by romantic interest in the opposite sex - most girls show little interest in boys, though some will begin to have crushes.

#### Boy and Girl

- enjoys physical activity as strength and motor skills improve and may frequently exercise.
- wants to be like his/her group of friends, and will make choices to help fit in with his or her peer group (clothes, style, language).
- is becoming more responsible and looks forward to challenging tasks.
- has exclusive friendships and works hard to create stability and loyalty with one another (this often includes having a “best friend” and missing that person when they are not around).
- appreciates being treated in a respectful adult manner when approached by adults.
- will think critically about adults’ choices, and verbalize any disagreement if the relationship is comfortable.
- responds well to deserved praise and wants to have individual recognition.
- has developed a stronger sense of justice and right or wrong choices.
- can complete tasks which require more time, his/her work is approached with more determination showing a high quality of work.
- will pay attention for longer periods of time in group settings, even when activities are less stimulating and require more listening than participation.
- asks questions which are complex and relevant to the topic being discussed, they often display deeper analytic thinking.
- is able to take turns in conversation.
- will begin to show emotions in a more bold fashion as they gain confidence and self identity.
- describes their identity with behaviors and personal choices (I am great at sports, because I play baseball).

- examines different situations with more than one perspective, some may even show leadership in this area and help to mediate among his/her peers.